

May 7, 1987

TO: File

FROM: Frank Jensen, Reclamation Soils Specialist *Hansen*

RE: ACT/019/017, ^{ra}Carter Exploration, Cato Ranch Bond Release

On April 27, 1987, Frank Filas and I visited the subject case. It is located on the west bank of the Colorado river, a short distance above the Dewey Bridge.

Basically, this placer operation ceased several years ago; the land was reasonably reshaped, and most of the mining equipment removed.

On January 23, 1985, the Division gave approval to reduce bonding liability from \$9,860 to \$1,900. On January 23, 1986, this action was taken by First Interstate Bank involving the Irrevocable Letter of Credit No. 1930.

The \$1,900 was held pending seeding three acres of the area. Carter Exploration Incorporated objected to seeding the area as they explained in a December 23, 1985, letter to Governor Bangerter, stating that the land owner wanted to let the land "revert back to its original uncultivated state".

Our examination shows the land is doing that. It appears that the predominant, original vegetation on this flood plain was greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*). The placer work did not kill out this native species, and it is resprouting.

At present, the site is covered with two common weeds: mustard (*Chorispora tenella*) and peppergrass (*Lepidium perfoliatum*). These weeds are very common in the state, and although they are undesirable, they are not on the state noxious weed list.

In essence, it is too late to successfully seed this area with grasses, unless you "start over" by spraying the existing vegetation, plowing, and then seeding. This procedure would set back the native greasewood that is coming in. (Attached are photos of the area.) Therefore, I recommend that the \$1,900 bond be released and the case closed.

clj
Attachment
cc: L. Braxton
F. Filas
F. Jensen
1117R/35

PHOTOGRAPHS OF CATO RANCH



Photo #1 - Note the greasewood coming in amid the weedy vegetation.



Photo #2 - A dike built to check flooding of the property. Note the dense weed cover.